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January 24, 2002

Ms. Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney -Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Nearly \$35 million has been spent in the Microsoft cases allegedly to protect consumers. The truth is that consumers were not damaged by Microsoft activities and in fact benefited from the company's efforts. It is the litigation that hurts consumers by delaying the introduction of new products and improvements on existing products.

Antitrust laws are supposed to protect consumers not Microsoft's competitors. Over the years the price of computers and software has plummeted, and consumers have voiced their support for standardization and compatibility with their purchasing power. Consumers have been getting better and better deals from Microsoft. The antitrust laws should not be used to punish Microsoft for being good at what it does and having loyal, grateful customers.

At a time when our country is struggling to meet its financial obligations, wasting more money on this ill-conceived lawsuit is almost a crime. I ask you please approve the settlement immediately. The sides have come to agreement. There is no need to continue wasting precious resources on this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Baird".

Charles Baird, Ph.D.  
Professor of Economics and  
Chairman of the Department